Adopted Minutes of Galway City Council Plenary Meeting held in the Atlantic Technological University Galway City and online via MS Teams on Monday, 13 July 2026 at 2.00p.m.	
Presiding:	Mayor H. Ogbu
Elected Members Present:	Councillors: A. Cheevers, M.J. Crowe, M Cubbard, F. Fahy, J. Forde, S. Forde, C. Higgins, E. Hoare, P. Keane, D. Lyons, J. McDonagh, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, T. O'Flaherty, E. Seoighthe.
Elected Members Online:	Councillors: A. Burke, A. Curran
Executive Present:	Chief Executive: L. Cleary, Director of Services: P. Philbin, H. Kilroy, D. Pender, A/DoS: E. Fanning, Senior Engineer: Sharon Connolly, Meetings Administrator: A. Rohan, Administrative Officer: M. Duddy

The Meeting Administrator commenced with a statement of intent to conduct the business of the meeting in line with Standing Orders followed by a moment of silent reflection.

Mayor Ogbu welcomed members to the meeting, thanked the Atlantic Technological University (ATU) for hosting the event and welcomed Dr. Orla Flynn, President of Atlantic Technological University to address members.

Dr. Orla Flynn provided an overview of ATU's strategy, vision and development plans for Galway City campus and cross boarder plans with Sligo and Letterkenny campus.

Members thanked Dr. Flynn for the significant work undertaken by the ATU and acknowledged the University's contribution to education, research and recent developments.

A number of queries were raised by Members relating to student accommodation, parking, the Galwegians Rugby Club site, the Great Southern Hotel site, funding opportunities and the Murrough development lands.

In response, Dr. Flynn outlined the measures being taken to address student accommodation challenges, including collaboration between student unions to promote the student accommodation initiative. She noted the Government's objective of increasing purpose-built student accommodation to help reduce pressure on the private rental market. Regarding the Murrough lands, Dr. Flynn advised of zoning, site access and transport connectivity issues.

The Chief Executive thanked Dr. Flynn for hosting the meeting and acknowledged the long-standing relationship between Galway City Council and the ATU and recognised the collaborative partnerships in place.

1. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest
(Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended).

No disclosures raised.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

(a) Minutes of June Plenary Council Meeting held on 8 June 2026.

On a point of accuracy, Cllr. D. Lyons noted that the minutes referred to Ard na Gréine and requested that this be amended to Ard na Cré. He also enquired as to when the public lighting would be repaired. This was noted.

Cllr. E. Hoare suggested that, in addition to recording Members' comments in the minutes, responses from the Executive should also be included as part of the official record. The Meetings Administrator noted the suggestion and advised that the purpose of the minutes is to record decisions taken and key actions arising, rather than provide a detailed account of discussions.

Under Matters Arising members sought updates on a range of outstanding matters, including a social housing workshop, access to Chief Executive's Orders at meetings, Galway Airport, litter enforcement, staff resources for housing allocation scheme, the Pálás Cinema site and LPT allocation towards Taking in Charge of estates. Questions were raised regarding elderly and disabled tenants whether they were charged for maintenance and repair works. Queries were also raised in relation to the outsourcing of maintenance services.

Issues concerning maintenance works at Ard na Cré, road safety schemes in the Letteragh Road and Dangan areas, and a pedestrian crossing at Dangan Sportsground were raised. Members questioned when a parking workshop will be scheduled.

The Executive responded to the matters raised by Members.

Ms. S. Connolly advised that a review of Taking in Charge estates is underway and that a new policy is needed to address historical and complex cases. An update on scheduling of works will issue.

The Chief Executive advised that an additional Senior Executive Officer has been assigned to the Operational Directorate. It was also confirmed that a workshop on Choice Based Letting will be arranged. The resourcing of housing allocations will be reviewed to identify any service delivery issues. The Chief Executive acknowledged the work of staff involved in housing allocations and maintenance services.

In response to queries on housing maintenance, it was confirmed that the majority of repair works are carried out by Council staff, with a small number of works outsourced where necessary in consultation with unions. A more detailed breakdown will be provided. In response to a query regarding maintenance and repair charges, it was agreed that a detailed response would issue separately.

Proposed By: Cllr. F. Fahy	**Seconded By:** Cllr. J. McDonagh
Resolved to adopt the Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on 8 June 2026.	
The minutes were agreed and adopted.	

(b) Minutes of Annual Council Meeting held on 19 June 2026.

Proposed By: Cllr. N. McNelis	**Seconded By:** Cllr. F. Fahy
Resolved to adopt the Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on 19 June 2026.	
The minutes were agreed and adopted.	

No matters arising or matters of accuracy.

3. Business Prescribed by Statute

Ms. H. Kilroy presented the Annual Financial Statement, the Final Audited Accounts and the Local Government Auditor's Report, outlining the statutory requirements governing same and Auditor's findings. Ms. Kilroy stated there were no amendments to the draft financial statements.

(a) Section 122, Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) Audit Committee Annual Report 2025.

Proposed By: Cllr. M. Cubbard	**Seconded By:** Cllr. D. McDonnell
Resolved to note the Audit Committee Annual Report 2025 prepared in accordance with Section 122, Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).	
Result: Agreed to note.	

(b) Section 121, Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) Audit Committee Report -for noting.

Proposed By: Cllr. F. Fahy	**Seconded By:** Cllr. D. Lyons
Resolved to note Audit Committee Report as prepared in accordance with Section 121, Local Government Act 2001 (as amended.	
Result: Agreed to note.	

(c) Section 103, Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) Audited Annual Financial Statement and Statutory Local Government Audit Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 - for noting.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	**Seconded By:** Cllr. M. Cubbard
Resolved to note Audited Annual Financial Statement and Statutory Local Government Audit Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 as prepared in accordance with Section 103, Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).	
Result: Agreed to note.	

Cllr. E. Hoare sought updates on outstanding title registrations and the position regarding capital reserves. Ms. Kilroy advised that the remaining registrations are being progressed by the Corporate Estate Team and that capital reserves have been drawn upon in recent years to fund masterplans and other capital projects.

Cllr. F. Fahy raised concerns regarding the time taken to complete property registrations on Council-owned properties.

Mr. D. Pender advised that a dedicated staff resource is assigned to this work. He informed that the process is labour-intensive and dependent on third parties Táilte Éireann and solicitors.

(d) Section 183, Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000, in respect of the proposed disposal by sale agreement of lands in the ownership of Galway City Council at Shantalla, Galway - lands adjacent to University Hospital – for decision. Report circulated 2 July 2026.

Ms. A. Rohan, Meeting Administrator introduced the agenda item.

The Chief Executive introduced the report on the proposed disposal of lands. He emphasised the need to balance regional healthcare requirements with local community interests and advised that, if approved, the Council would engage with residents on the allocation of €1.8 million for community projects and amenities.

Cllr. J. McDonagh expressed concerns regarding BusConnects proposals, the loss of community green space, future use of the lands, and the need for further assurances and community consultation. He also queried whether alternative helipad options had been considered and proposed the following motion:

Proposed by: Cllr. J. McDonagh	Seconded by: Cllr. E. Seoighthe
That Galway City Council defer any decision on the proposed disposal of Shantalla Park pending clear and written clarification on: - The future use of the lands — whether the lands will be retained specifically for a helipad/heliport and emergency access, and what safeguards will prevent any future change of use to car parking, buildings or other development. - Future helipad plans — whether a rooftop helipad forms part of the future plans for UHG and, if so, what impact this has on the stated need for Shantalla Park. - BusConnects — the apparent lack of clarity between Galway City Council and the HSE regarding the agreed BusConnects route through the UHG campus, particularly in light of concerns that the wording in Appendix A of the Development Control Plan does not reflect what had previously been agreed. Given these unresolved issues and the irreversible nature of disposing of a public park, the decision should be deferred until elected members have clear and consistent information before them.	

Cllr. D. Lyons supported improved healthcare facilities and sought assurances that the lands could not be used for purposes other than those outlined and queried potential safeguards within the agreement

Cllr. A. Curran raised concerns regarding consultation, BusConnects discussions and parking provision, and suggested a two-month deferral to allow time to seek consensus.

Cllr. P. Keane acknowledged residents' concerns and regional healthcare needs, and stressed the importance of commitments on community benefits, active travel measures and investment in the Shantalla area. Cllr. Keane submitted the following motion.

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Keane	**Seconded by: Cllr. D. Lyons**

That Galway City Council hereby resolves in consideration of the sum of **€691,875** (excluding VAT) to transfer Lands comprising 1.4932 Hectares being part of the Lands comprised in Folio GY112570F County Galway as more particularly described on the Map attached hereto, to the HSE / Saolta Hospital Group strictly subject to the following conditions:

1. That the HSE will contribute in addition to the consideration recited above, the sum of **€1,108,125** (one million one hundred and eight thousand one hundred and twenty five euro) which shall be ring-fenced by Galway City Council for investment in the Community of Shantalla, to include investment in the remaining lands within Folio GY112570F County Galway at Shantalla Park, which sum is to be donated to Galway City Council by the HSE without prejudice or HSE influence as to how it is to be spent. The Development of the remaining lands together with other Community Projects within Shantalla shall be community led.
2. The HSE shall transfer a strip of land within its ownership to Galway City Council to facilitate a Pedestrian connection (together with GCC Vehicular Access for Maintenance) from Costello Road into the Shantalla Park, at a nominal sum, the said Lands being more particularly described on Galway City Council Drawing No: PKS/26-004 SR.
3. Bus Connects Campus Route: -
(i) Galway City Councils objective to implement the Bus Connects Galway Project as outlined in the current City Development Plan (2023-2029) is acknowledged and the UHG DCP supports this objective.
(ii) A bus route, incorporating Public Transport, Cycling and Walking facilities aligned with the NTA design standards, will be provided and maintained through the UHG Campus as part of the DCP development, as illustrated.
(iii) The detailed design of the route will be prepared by the HSE Design Team to ensure alignment with the Hospital's clinical and operational requirements. This design will be developed in collaboration with Galway City Council and their BusConnects Design Team once appointed.
(iv) The bus route design will be progressed in parallel with the design of the first major development proposed on the Campus (Ward Block A).
Details of the agreed bus route, together with associated active travel infrastructure, will be included as part of the planning application for this project.
4. It is a strict condition of this transfer, that the lands to be transferred are to be used solely for the use of a Heliport, ancillary to the development /

upgrade of the University Hospital as a Model 4 Hospital. In the event that the lands are put to any other use, then and in that event the lands shall be returned to the ownership of Galway City Council pro-rata at the same consideration paid to Galway City Council. For the avoidance of any doubt, in the event of the lands being returned there shall be no obligation on Galway City Council to repay the additional contribution as cited at paragraph 1 hereof.

Cllr. M.J. Crowe proposed the suspension of Standing Orders in respect of the three-minute speaking limit per Councillor to facilitate a detailed discussion. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed.

Cllr. M. Cubbard stated for the record that he volunteers as a coach with a club using the grounds, with no financial gain and no conflict of interest. He expressed concern regarding the loss of open space, the consultation process, and the provision of alternative recreational facilities.

Cllr. E. Seoighthe expressed concerns regarding community engagement, consultation, BusConnects and the impact of development in an area with a high residential population. She stated that additional time was required to consider the proposal.

Cllr. T. O'Flaherty acknowledged the concerns of residents and hospital patients and sought clarification on the future use of the site and the commitments being proposed.

Cllr. N. McNelis requested further information on the proposed community funding, how a community working group would operate and whether a lease arrangement had been considered as an alternative to a sale.

Cllr. D. McDonnell supported improvements to healthcare but stressed the importance of maintaining control over the future use of the site and ensuring commitments relating to BusConnects were achieved.

Cllr. E. Hoare raised concerns regarding the future use of the lands, acknowledged community advocacy on the issue, and emphasised the importance of healthcare investment and a masterplan for the area.

Cllr. A. Burke expressed concern that the proposed development would take a number of years to complete with impacts on the surrounding area.

Cllr. A. Cheevers acknowledged residents' concerns, supported the development of a Model Tier 4 Hospital in Galway, and emphasised the need for stronger engagement between the HSE, Galway City Council and the local community.

Cllr. F. Fahy described the proposal as a difficult decision, sought assurances on future land use and transport measures, and requested that any disposal be restricted to use as a helipad only.

Cllr. M. Crowe acknowledged the concerns and historical issues raised by Shantalla residents and recognised the impact on local amenities. He noted that the safeguards contained within the motion would assist in addressing these concerns and provide greater certainty.

Cllr. S. Forde acknowledged residents' concerns and emphasised the growing demand for healthcare services and the need to support essential healthcare infrastructure.

Mayor H. Ogbu acknowledged both the healthcare infrastructure requirements and community concerns, and emphasised the importance of trust, transparency and engagement.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the agreed conditions and commitments with the HSE related to the provision of a helipad and advised that opportunities for alternative green space and community engagement on future investment proposals would be explored should the disposal proceed.

Members sought clarification regarding correspondence circulated by HSE representatives in advance of the meeting. Mr. D. Pender clarified that the correspondence related to the hospital Development Control Plan.

Cllr. P. Keane proposed to extend the meeting by 15 minutes, this was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed. The Meeting Administrator read both individual motions into the record. A roll-call vote was requested by Cllrs. D. Lyons and supported by Cllrs T. O'Flaherty and J. McDonagh in respect of both motions. This was agreed. A roll-call vote was taken for the first motion, proposed by Cllr. J. McDonagh and seconded by Cllr. E. Seoighthe.

<table>
<tr><td colspan="3">Proposed by: Cllr. J. McDonagh</td><td colspan="2">Seconded by: Cllr. E. Seoighthe</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">That Galway City Council defer any decision on the proposed disposal of Shantalla Park pending clear and written clarification on:

- The future use of the lands — whether the lands will be retained specifically for a helipad/heliport and emergency access, and what safeguards will prevent any future change of use to car parking, buildings or other development.
- Future helipad plans — whether a rooftop helipad forms part of the future plans for UHG and, if so, what impact this has on the stated need for Shantalla Park.
- BusConnects — the apparent lack of clarity between Galway City Council and the HSE regarding the agreed BusConnects route through the UHG campus, particularly in light of concerns that the wording in Appendix A of the Development Control Plan does not reflect what had previously been agreed.

Given these unresolved issues and the irreversible nature of disposing of a public park, the decision should be deferred until elected members have clear and consistent information before them.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Present: 18</td><td>In Favour: 7</td><td>Against: 11</td><td>Abstain: 0</td><td>Absent: 0</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">Result: This Motion was defeated.</td></tr>
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	In Favour	Against	Abstain
Cllr. A. Burke	✓		
Cllr. A. Cheevers		✓	
Cllr. M.J. Crowe		✓	
Cllr. M. Cubbard	✓		
Cllr. A. Curran	✓		
Cllr. F. Fahy		✓	
Cllr. J. Forde		✓	
Cllr. S. Forde		✓	
Cllr. C. Higgins		✓	
Cllr. E. Hoare		✓	
Cllr. P. Keane		✓	
Cllr. D. Lyons		✓	
Cllr. J. McDonagh	✓		
Cllr. D. McDonnell		✓	
Cllr. N. McNelis	✓		
Cllr. T. O'Flaherty		✓	
Cllr. H. Ogbu	✓		
Cllr. E. Seoighthe	✓		

A roll-call vote was taken on the motion proposed by Cllr. P. Keane, seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons.

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Keane	**Seconded by: Cllr. D. Lyons**

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4. It is a strict condition of this transfer, that the lands to be transferred are to be used solely for the use of a Heliport, ancillary to the development / upgrade of the University Hospital as a Model 4 Hospital.
In the event that the lands are put to any other use, then and in that event the lands shall be returned to the ownership of Galway City Council pro-rata at the same consideration paid to Galway City Council. For the avoidance of any doubt, in the event of the lands being returned there shall be no obligation on Galway City Council to repay the additional contribution as cited at paragraph 1 hereof.

Present: 18	**In Favour: 13**	**Against: 5**	**Abstain: 0**	**Absent:** 0

Result: The Council resolved to approve the disposal by sale agreement of the lands at Shantalla, Galway, adjacent to University Hospital Galway, in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000, subject to the conditions outlined in the motion adopted by Council.

	In Favour	Against	Abstain
Cllr. A. Burke		✓	
Cllr. A. Cheevers	✓		
Cllr. M.J. Crowe	✓		
Cllr. M. Cubbard		✓	
Cllr. A. Curran		✓	
Cllr. F. Fahy	✓		
Cllr. J. Forde	✓		
Cllr. S. Forde	✓		
Cllr. C. Higgins	✓		
Cllr. E. Hoare	✓		
Cllr. P. Keane	✓		
Cllr. D. Lyons	✓		
Cllr. J. McDonagh		✓	
Cllr. D. McDonnell	✓		
Cllr. N. McNelis	✓		
Cllr. T. O'Flaherty	✓		
Cllr. H. Ogbu	✓		
Cllr. E. Seoighthe		✓	

Cllr. D. Lyons proposed that a Special Meeting be held on 20 July at 3.00 p.m. to consider the remaining agenda items. This was seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy and agreed.

The Meeting concluded at 16:45p.m.

Minutes, Confirmed & Signed

Mayor of Galway